



Linda S. Adams
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

California Water Quality Monitoring Council

Jonathan Bishop & Joe Grindstaff, Co-Chairs

Mailing Address: c/o Jon Marshack, SB 1070 Coordinator
1001 I Street, 15th Floor • P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California • 95812-0100
(916) 341-5514 • Fax (916) 341-5463
www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/monitoring_council



Mike Chrisman
*Secretary for
Resources*

December 1, 2008

Ms. Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Agency Secretaries:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

On November 26, 2007, you signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (Monitoring Council), as required by SB 1070 (Kehoe, 2006). The legislation requires that the Monitoring Council report to you on or before December 1, 2008 its recommendations for maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of existing water quality data collection and dissemination, and for ensuring that collected data are maintained and available for use by decision makers and the public. The enclosed report fulfills this initial Monitoring Council responsibility.

While past improvement efforts have focused mainly on methods consistency, standardizing data formats, developing large databases, and other technical issues, the Monitoring Council believes that the best way to coordinate and enhance California's monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts is first to provide a platform for simplified, streamlined access to water quality information that directly addresses users' questions. The Monitoring Council recommends that issue-specific workgroups, under the overarching guidance of the Monitoring Council, evaluate existing monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts and work to enhance those efforts to improve the delivery of water quality information to the user. This will provide the structure and incentive to coordinate disparate monitoring programs, improve the technical infrastructure needed to support that coordination, and will act to reduce conflicts and incompatibilities within the technical infrastructure as it continues to develop.

The Monitoring Council respectfully requests that you (1) endorse the Monitoring Council's vision and empower the Monitoring Council to guide its development, (2) direct the boards, conservancies, commissions, departments, and offices within Cal/EPA and the Resources Agency to support and participate in these efforts; and (3) seek sufficient resources to ensure long-term sustainability.

On an annual basis, beginning in December 2009, the Monitoring Council will report back to you on progress made in implementing the Council's vision. The first of these annual reports will

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contain the Monitoring Council's recommendations for the development of the comprehensive monitoring program strategy for California, required by SB 1070.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Bishop
Co-Chair



Joe Grindstaff
Co-Chair

Enclosure

cc: Members of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council
Members of the SB 1070 Work Group
Senator Christine Kehoe, State Capitol
Senator Elaine Alquist, State Capitol